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**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK210-3-1**

**SUBJECT: ENG – Criteria for Evaluation of Existing Terrace Systems**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance on developing conservation plans with existing terrace systems.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2003

Questions have been raised recently regarding the criteria to be used in determining if an existing terrace system is functional in meeting its designed intent. This bulletin clarifies the use of Oklahoma's conservation practice standard for Terrace (600) in evaluating existing terrace systems.

On page 3, column 2 of the Oklahoma terrace standard, there are two numbered paragraphs establishing the criteria existing terraces must meet where new terraces are added to, or constructed below, existing terraces as part of the terrace system. These same criteria will be used to evaluate functionality of existing terrace systems in serving their intended purpose.

Consideration of treatment for terrace systems that do not meet these criteria will need to be addressed during the planning process. Planners will evaluate the continued need for terraces to meet the soil erosion resource criteria. Options available to the client may include:

- Removal of the remaining ridge if terraces are determined to be no longer needed.
- Accelerate maintenance to restore the minimum ridge height to the criteria shown in the standard.
- Construction of a new system considering modern farming practices and alignment.
- Reconstruction of the existing ridge to meet the NRCS standard.

Follow guidance in the terrace standard for establishing new terrace systems or reconstruction of existing systems. The national conservation practice standard for terraces is currently undergoing revision. The Oklahoma standard for terraces will be revised this fiscal year and will include clarification of this item.

This bulletin merely establishes technical guidance for determining functionality of existing terrace systems. Eligibility for cost-share of terrace reconstruction is an individual program decision and can vary from program to program.

/s/ (Leslie R. Conner - Acting)

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